

Request for Information

Solar for All Programs

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: EPA-R-HQ-SFA-23-01

Solar for All

\$7 billion Solar for All competition launched by the U.S. EPA

Solar for All, a program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will tackle the financial and non-financial barriers that limit the ability of low-income and disadvantaged communities across the country to benefit from the rapid growth in distributed solar capacity.

The Solar for All competition, is designed to:

- Spur the deployment of residential distributed solar energy to lower energy bills for millions of Americans and
- Catalyze transformation in markets serving low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Purpose of the Request for Information (RFI)

To gather information, based on the initial EPA guidance released, from potential consultants (that the Oklahoma Department of Commerce may procure to install solar panels as part of program implementation), stakeholders and the public. The information gathered during this RFI process will be used to inform the development of a future solicitation and Request for Proposal (RFP) and the Solar for All program design.

This RFI is not a solicitation and Commerce cannot, and will not, promise any vendor who replies to this RFI a contract.

RFI Guidelines

For the Solar for All program, this RFI is seeking to collect information on the following questions and topics:

1. The program requires that the state guarantee a minimum of 20% energy savings as part of its program design. What is the best way to ensure that we follow up on the 20% annual minimum household energy savings – ex. cold calls, predetermined agreements with utilities, etc.
2. What would be the megawatts of solar capacity deployed over time? (Both as an absolute number of megawatts of solar deployed and dollars of award funding requested per megawatts of solar)
3. What are the megawatt hours of storage capacity deployed over time? (Both as an absolute number of megawatt hours of storage deployed and dollars of award funding requested per megawatt hours of storage)
 - a. Is storage beneficial for our residents?
 - b. Should grant dollars be spent on storage?
4. How do we calculate short tons of annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions avoided over time? (Both as an absolute number of tons of CO₂ reduced and dollars of award funding requested per tons of CO₂ reduced).

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5. What is the public's experience with homeowner insurance and any damage to solar panels on roofs?
6. What is the best way to reimburse work for contractors?
E.g. Should ODOC provide funds in advance? Upon full completion of project? Half upfront and half upon completion? Are there other options?
7. There are already scammers trying to advertise for a false Solar for All program. How does ODOC install public trust in the private contracted installers and government employees of this program?
8. Should all solar installers procured for this program be North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) certified? Why or why not? If not, how to do assure the public of the installer's knowledge and expertise?
9. What qualifications must a procured installer have for ODOC's program?
10. How do we ensure we have enough workforce to support this program?

ODOC may ask any other question regarding information the EPA is requesting for state application as per the grant guidance. ODOC will also accept any other comments related to information contained in the grant guidance.

Comments or questions in response to this request for information may be submitted from September 14 - September 22, 2023.

To submit comments or inquiries, please email Ray Little at Ray.little@okcommerce.gov and CC Amanda.Marcott-Thottunkal@okcommerce.gov.

Written comments, requests for virtual meetings and phone calls are all accepted.